

## **Florida Trap Fisheries**

**Date of Declaration/Determination:** September, 1999

**Location:** Monroe County, FL lobster and stone crab trap fisheries

**Cause:** Due to impacts of Hurricanes Georges and Mitch, which destroyed fishing traps.

**Authority:** Sec 312(a) of MSA

**Appropriation:** FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental, June 29, 2000--total of \$10.8 million to address impacts of Hurricanes Georges, Mitch, Dennis and Floyd in Florida and North Carolina; \$4.8 million will be used for Monroe County trap fishers as this was the amount requested by the Secretary of Commerce.

**Assistance Provided:** Award made for \$6.4 million (including required state share of \$1.6 million) to compensate fishermen for direct storm-related losses; buy back trap certificates, in accordance with State program for trap tag reduction; and retrieve lost traps and trap-related shoreline debris to mitigate environmental damage. Federal funds (\$4.8 million) are being used as follows:

About \$4.6 million--direct assistance for fishermen (of which approximately \$300,000 will pay the contractor). About \$4.3 million will be disbursed to trap fishermen based on the number of traps they had destroyed or were lost and whose losses > can be verified. Payment per trap lost is estimated to be \$20-\$25.

\$150 K--economic study to assess the effects of the State's ongoing trap reduction program.

About \$50 K--State administrative costs for three years.